



Virginia Coastal Zone

M A N A G E M E N T P R O G R A M



**Back Bay Restoration Foundation
Virginia Beach Watersheds Forum
FY2013**

**Prepared by: Shannon Davis, Executive Director
Back Bay Restoration Foundation**

This project was funded, in part, by the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program at the Department of Environmental Quality through FY13 Grant # NA13NOS4190135 of the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended.

Product #1 Title: Forum Registration Form, Speaker Invitations, Agenda and Program
30% Deliverables

VB Watersheds Forum Registration Form



With funding and support by:

2014 VIRGINIA BEACH WATERSHEDS FORUM

Thursday, March 13, 2014

9 AM to 1:30 PM (Registration starts at 8:15 AM)

Double Tree Hotel, Grand Ballroom

Speakers Include:

Sustainable Schools: *How Are Our Schools Teaching Sustainability?* Tim Cole, Melani Loney, Deedra Dills
Back Bay Fisheries Update in Back Bay: Chad Boyce, VDGIF
The Story of Our Stuff: Linda Minner, Waste Management; Deborah Alberta-Dorata, TFC Recycling
The Benefits and Impacts of Using Compost Around Watersheds: Chip Hall, N.O.P.E
Diamondback Terrapins: Diane Tulipani, VIMS
Pearl Faith Communities, Native Plants, & Oyster Castle Shorelines: LRNow Staff
The Virginia Beach SPCA's Wildlife and Line Recycling Program: Barbara Gibson, VBSPCA
Sea Level Rise: *What Do You Think We Should Be Doing?* – Clay Bernick, Skip Stiles, Mark Swingle

Additional displays from local organizations.

The registration fee of \$20 includes light morning refreshments and lunch. Presentations will be available online after the Forum. Register by March 10th. Seating is limited; reservations are first come, first served.

Please mail registration form and fee to: **Back Bay Restoration Foundation, 3022 New Bridge Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23456 • 757-619-6429 • shannon.davis@bbrf.org**

Registration Information

Name(s): Organization:

Address: City: State: Zip:

Email: Phone:

Vegetarian Lunch: _____ Y _____ N

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VB Watersheds Forum Speaker Invitations

Back Bay Restoration Foundation (BBRF) and Lynnhaven River NOW (LRNow) shared the responsibility of inviting speakers. BBRF and LRNow staff met prior to inviting speakers to discuss specific topics and associated speakers. We contacted most speakers via e-mail. We called the remainder of the speakers. A sample speaker invitation is as follows:

Dear Chad,

Back Bay Restoration Foundation and Lynnhaven River NOW is hosting the VB Watersheds Forum on March 13, 2014, with funding and support by the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program at the Department of Environmental Quality through Grant #NA13NOS4190135 of the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended.

We invite you to be a presenter at our upcoming forum for a 30-minute presentation (25-minute talk with 5 minutes for questions). We have appreciated your participation in our previous Forums and hope that you can participate again this year. It would be great to have an update on the 2013 bass stocking in Back Bay, and the plans for the future of the project in addition to any general fishery update you can provide.

The goal of the VB Watersheds Forum is to provide students, citizens, and scientists access to research, updates, and issues that affect Virginia Beach and its watersheds. The Forum will be a day-long event with speakers on relevant issues. We also invite community groups and non-profit organizations to have an informational table at the event. There will be one group session in the morning, and then break-out concurrent sessions for different issues. We invite you to be one of the speakers for our breakout sessions.

Please RSVP by February 1, with a tentative talk title, such that we are able to finalize our schedule for a press release.

Contact me via email or phone if you have any questions.

Thank you!

Shannon Davis

Executive Director

Back Bay Restoration Foundation

757-619-6429

www.bbrf.org

VB Watersheds Forum Agenda
March 13, 2014 at the Virginia Beach Double Tree Hotel

8:30 - Doors Open/ Continental Breakfast

9:00 - Welcome

9:15 - 10:15 -- First Panel: How are our Schools teaching Sustainability? What can we all learn from what our schools are doing?

Panelists:

Tim Cole, Sustainability Officer, Virginia Beach City Public Schools

Melani Loney, Middle School Science Coordinator, Virginia Beach City Public School

Deedra Dills, Parent and PTA Member

Brent Horner, Landstown High School Teacher, Virginia Beach City Public Schools

10:15 - 10:30 - Break (displays, networking)

10:30 - 11:00 - First Breakout Session

A. Virginia Beach Bass Fishery

a. Chad Boyce, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

B. What Happens to our Trash and Recycling? The Story of our Stuff. Do you want to know what happens to your trash and recycling? What can you do to reduce waste?

a. Panelists: Linda Minner, VB Waste Management

TFC Representative

Goodwill Representative

11:05 - 11:35 - Second Breakout Session

A. Compost Blankets for Runoff and Erosion Control

a. Chip Hall, N.O.P.E

B. Diamondback Terrapin Research: Learn more about this fascinating and beautiful terrapin that lives in our wetlands.

a. Diane Tulipani, Virginia Institute of Marine Science

11:40 - 12:10 - Third Breakout Session

A. Virginia Beach Wildlife: Fishing Line Recycling Program

a. Barbara Gipson, Virginia Beach SPCA

B. How Can You Help Green Your Faith Community? Would you like to see your church, synagogue or mosque adopt more sustainable practices? Find out how you can get that started in your faith community.

- a. Panelists: Karen Forget, LRNow Executive Director
Pam Northam, LRNow Pearl Faith Community Coordinator
Penny Moulis, Parishioner, Eastern Shore Chapel
Rev. James Christian, Pastor Bayside Christian Church

12:10 - 12:30 – lunch served in the main room for the Second Panel

12:30-1:30 - Second Panel: Sea Level Rise: What do you think we should be doing? We have all seen the maps. We know the seas are rising, but how is this already affecting people in Hampton Roads and what should we be doing to prepare?

- A. Panelists: Whitney McNamara, Environment and Sustainability Office, City of Virginia Beach (Floodplain maps and FEMA insurance)
Skip Stiles, Wetlands Watch (What is happening with private insurance and what might we expect?)
Mark Swingle, Homeowner, Marine Biologist, Virginia Aquarium (One homeowner's story)
Laura Habr, Small Business Owner, Resort Area Advisory Commission (What does sea level rise mean to the oceanfront?)
Steve Lawson, President, Tidewater Builders Association (What is the perspective from the business community?)

VB Watersheds Forum Program

**2014 WATERSHEDS FORUM,
THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2014
8:30-1:30**

Location:
Double Tree by Hilton Hotel
1900 Pavilion Drive
Next to the Convention Center

Cost:
\$20 includes all informational sessions
Continental breakfast and lunch

To Register:
Go to www.LRNow.org
Or
www.BBRF.org
Or
Call 757-962-5398



Co-Hosted by
Back Bay Restoration Foundation
and Lynnhaven River NOW



Sponsored by



Virginia Coastal Zone
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

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In all sessions, there will be an opportunity for questions from the audience. We really want this forum to be interactive.

8:30 – Doors Open/ Continental Breakfast

9:00 – Welcome

9:15 - 10:15 – First Panel: How are our Schools teaching Sustainability? What can we all learn from what our schools are doing?

Moderator: Karen Forget, LRNow

Panelists:

Tim Cole, Sustainability Officer, Virginia Beach City Public Schools

Melani Loney, Middle School Science Coordinator, Virginia Beach City Public School

Deedra Dills, Parent and PTA Member

Brent Homer, Landstown High School Teacher, Virginia Beach City Public Schools

10:15 - 10:30 – Break

10:30 - 11:00 – First Breakout Session

A. Virginia Beach Bass Fishery

Chad Boyce, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

B. What Happens to our Trash and Recycling? The Story of our Stuff. Do you want to know what happens to your trash and recycling? What can you do to reduce waste?

Moderator: Karen Forget

Panelists: Linda Minner, VB Waste Management

TFC Representative

Goodwill Representative

11:05 - 11:35 – Second Breakout Session

A. Compost Blankets for Runoff and Erosion Control

Chip Hall, N.O.P.E

B. Diamondback Terrapin Research: Learn more about this fascinating and beautiful terrapin that lives in our wetlands.

Diane Tulipani, Virginia Institute of Marine Science

11:40 - 12:10 – Third Breakout Session

A. Virginia Beach Wildlife: Fishing Line Recycling Program

Virginia Beach SPCA

B. How Can You Help Green Your Faith Community? Would you like to see your church, synagogue or mosque adopt more sustainable practices? Find out how you can get that started in your faith community.

Karen Forget, LRNow Executive Director

Pam Northam, LRNow Pearl Faith Community Coordinator

Penny Moulis, Parishioner, Eastern Shore Chapel

Rev. James Christian, Pastor Bayside Christian Church

12:10 - 12:30 Get your lunch and take it to the main room for the Second Panel

12:30-1:30 – Second Panel: Sea Level Rise: What do you think we should be doing? We have all seen the maps. We know the seas are rising, but how is this already affecting people in Hampton Roads and what should we be doing to prepare?

Moderator: Ben McFarlane, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

Panelists:

Whitney McNamara, Environment and Sustainability Office, City of Virginia Beach (Floodplain maps and FEMA insurance)

Skip Stiles, Wetlands Watch (What is happening with private insurance and what might we expect?)

Mark Swingle, Homeowner, Marine Biologist, Virginia Aquarium (One homeowner's story)

Laura Habr, Small Business Owner, Resort Area Advisory Commission (What does sea level rise mean to the oceanfront?)

Steve Lawson, President, Tidewater Builders Association (What is the perspective from the business community?)

Product #2 Title: Action Plan 40% Deliverables

Back Bay Restoration Foundation Action Plan

The Action Plan for the restoration and protection of the Back Bay watershed focuses upon items gleaned from comment forms provided by Forum attendees and through discussion with BBRF Board of Directors, LRNow staff, and volunteers after the Forum. Specific Action Items include the following:

1. Encourage networking with related interest groups

- a. Back Bay Restoration Foundation will continue to coordinate efforts with local watershed and wildlife groups as well as local, state and federal government entities in an effort to share contacts and resources, ensure coordination of projects and proposals, garner support for efforts, and facilitate the widest dissemination of information relating to pertinent environmental initiatives. In June 2014, BBRF was notified that we will be receiving funding from N.F.W.F. to work with the local, state and federal entities on some local environmental initiatives. BBRF hopes to continue to expand and build on these important projects.
- b. Back Bay Restoration Foundation will continue to provide and solicit speakers on relevant topics, particularly on topics of interest as identified in the Forum Feedback Forms, for future forums and BBRF membership meetings. In future forums and events involving presentations, BBRF will develop a set of Power Point Presentation guidelines that will include: font size suggestions, picture size suggestions, and graphing guidelines. Based on feedback from the survey and comment form, BBRF will also try to solicit more scientific presentations as well as enforce strict time restrictions on presentations to more accurately time any breakout sessions at future Watersheds Forum.
- c. Back Bay Restoration Foundation (BBRF) will staff informational booths at local events (Farmer's Markets, the City of Virginia Beach's Earth Day Event, Master Gardener Festival, Lynnhaven River NOW's Fall Festival, as examples), in addition to our future Forums. In addition, BBRF will work to improve the appeal of its current educational display to attract more people to visit the display to learn about the Back Bay watershed. This effort provides an additional outlet for distribution of information and the opportunity to advertise/present BBRF's mission to a varied subset of individuals.
- d. BBRF will continue to offer informational table space for other non-profit organizations and local, state, and federal government agencies, at future Back Bay Forums.

2. Involvement in restoration activities

- a. Back Bay Restoration Foundation plans to resume and expand restoration activities, such as riparian plantings, native plantings, and rain garden creation. BBRF will be awarded funding in 2015 to work on native plantings and shoreline stabilizations within the Back Bay watershed. BBRF will coordinate with the City via attendance at the monthly Clean Water Task Force meetings and other meetings with the City's Environment and Sustainability Office.
- b. Back Bay Restoration Foundation will work closely with Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge, False Cape State Park, and Princess Anne Wildlife Management Area to identify restoration activities that will further our mission to improve Back Bay and its watershed. BBRF will work with and assist these entities when practical and possible.

3. Continue and expand pollution prevention programs

- a. Back Bay Restoration Foundation staff, members and volunteers will continue efforts to clean our watershed with the guidance of the City of Virginia Beach Clean Community Coalition. This effort will specifically include continuation of existing roadway and waterway cleanups efforts.
- b. Back Bay Restoration Foundation will collaborate with other groups such as Lynnhaven River NOW, Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge, False Cape State Park, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the City of Virginia Beach, Clean Virginia Waterways, and others, to engage volunteers in cleanups that directly improve the health of the Back Bay, and neighboring, watersheds.
- c. Pollution prevention and cleanup efforts will be published in bi-monthly newsletters, on the Back Bay Facebook page, and on the BBRF website. BBRF also informs BBRF members of volunteer opportunities with other watershed groups in Hampton Roads.
- d. Back Bay Restoration Foundation will continue to garner volunteers and cultivate these relationships. BBRF will also educate members about pollution prevention efforts and the importance of such work.
- e. Back Bay Restoration Foundation will continue to participate in City Storm Water Management Program storm water drain marking program within the Back Bay Watershed. All necessary equipment is available to BBRF from the City Storm Water Management department.

4. Expand Education and Outreach Programs

- a. Back Bay Restoration Foundation membership meetings and newsletter articles feature information about projects and issues in the watershed as well as practical information for homeowners. The BBRF Board President have developed a series of articles focusing on the Back Bay watershed, its natural and cultural history. These articles are archived on our website.
- b. Back Bay Restoration Foundation will continue providing information to local schools and area civic groups relating to issues concerning the Back Bay watershed. The goals include raising awareness and educating the public about ways in which residents can have a positive impact on water quality. During 2014, BBRF recruited volunteers and developed a volunteer database to track volunteer hours and projects. As we move into 2015, BBRF plans to work on developing and expanding to include a volunteer outreach team in an effort to attend more local events.
- c. Back Bay Restoration Foundation will work closely with staff at Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge to educate visitors about the unique ecosystem in Back Bay, the wildlife and flora here, and the challenges to protect this system. This fall, BBRF and Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge reinstated the Junior Biologist Program for children grades 3-5. BBRF also
- d. Back Bay Restoration Foundation will continue to evaluate the successes and challenges of previous Forums and use this information as BBRF plans the 2015 VB Watersheds Forum.

Product #3 Title: BBRF Website Update 15% Deliverables

http://www.bbrf.org/VB_Watershed_Forum.htm

In the spring and early summer, the BBRF website was completely redone. It delayed our time frame a little in regards to getting the presentations online. The presentations were offered to participants via CD. Once the website was repaired, the presentations and forum information was uploaded. Some presenters did not use a PowerPoint presentation. Presentations from the 2014 VB Watershed Forums are available for download via this link in PDF format. The webpage also includes the CZMP logos. The 2014 Action Plan and program can be downloaded via the same link in PDF format.

Product #4 Title: Survey and Comment Form 15% Deliverables

During the final session of the 2014 VB Watersheds Forum, survey and comment forms were distributed. We asked people to fill them out and either mail them to the BBRF office or turn them in to one of our volunteers walking around the room at the end of the presentation. We estimated that about 35% of attendees completed the form and returned it. Once we received all of the forms, we compiled the data in a spreadsheet and typed out the written answers.

The form that we distributed and the feedback from the forms are on the following pages.

Total Numbers (add all forms for each)	1	2	3	4	5
Length of the Forum	0	2	3	11	16
Number of presentations	0	2	3	8	17
Content and relevance of the presentations	1	2	5	9	15
Knowledge of the presenters	0	1	5	6	20
Format of the Forum	0	1	2	12	17
Number, type, and quality of table displays	0	1	7	11	11
Catering Services	0	1	2	11	18
Venue	0	0	0	11	21
Registration Fee	0	0	0	12	20

Question 1: If you ranked any of the above aspects of the Forum a 1 or a 2, please describe why and/or how we can improve.

Answers:

1 - I think all the information was great but some of the presenters could have used more time. Maybe extending the event with multiple presenters would help.

2 - Poor time management. Sessions seemed rushed. Titles of sessions also did not reflect content. Sea level rise was about flood insurance and not addressed science.

Erosional control was about compost and presenter knew very little about the bank stabilization and erosion like the title of the session. Fishing line was very biased about fisherman leaving trash when there are much bigger issues affection waterfowl.

3 - Some of the "power points" were full of important info that were impossibly presented - way too fast on the screen. Others were way too small or small lettering.

4 - All great.

5 - Better tables, and a few more topics of discussion.

6 - More relevant topics to watershed, more science!!

7 - Not Back Bay specific.

Question 2: Are there other topics you would like to see covered in future Forums?

Answers:

1 - insurance actuarial analysts

2 - Encouraging the public to pick up trash, participate; Creation of a bottle bill - reuse.

3 - Maybe something geared towards high school students. Something we can incorporate into class.

4 - Maybe intro to activism for the folks who do not know how to get involved.

5 - Shoreline care and maintenance.

6 - More talk of volunteer opportunities.

7 - More sea level rise/flood plain management.

8 - Wind zones, mitigation measured for homeowners in case of flood.

9 - More science related topics.

10 - Water quality.

11 - More research, less agenda (political items).

12 - TMDL

13 - Water quality, storm water/TMDL changes, include regional resources.

14 - Potential effect of fracking here (or near here) on our or the bay's watersheds and on drinking water. Also, f/u on uranium mining if indicated.

Question 3: Did this Forum affect or change you understanding and appreciation of Virginia Beach's watershed?

Answers:

1 - yes

2 - yes

3 - yes

4 - yes, school activities.

5 - yes

6 - The Insurance section was new to me.

7 - yes

8 - Yes, eye opening about flood levels/cost in future; would have appreciated hearing all of the compost blanket presentation.

9 - No

10 - No

11 - Great info on schools and recycling!

12 - Yes. I have a better understanding on VB public schools sustainability issues.

13 - Yes.

- 14 - Yes - again, such a great job of informing citizens of important topics.
- 15 - Yes, better understanding of Va Bch schools and sustainability. Enjoyed Green Church concept.
- 16 - No.
- 17 - Yes.
- 18 - No.
- 19 - Enhanced.
- 20 - No.
- 21 - Yes.

Question 4: What new initiatives would you suggest that would have a direct and positive impact on the health of Virginia Beach's watersheds?

Answers:

- 1 - plantings, pollutions reduction, turtle guards on crab pots, oyster restoration.
- 2 - public education and outreach events/programs.
- 3 - faith based efforts.
- 4 - Fines for littering more school initiatives to "Go Green".
- 5 - More fishing line recycling areas; More recycling opportunities (ex. #3 - 7)
- 6 - Public awareness.
- 7 - Better methods to improve the quality of storm water runoff (less fertilizer, sweep streets, etc.)
- 8 - Have a more balanced "feel-good public" presenters of science-based topics.
- 9 - Storm water runoff retrofits.

Question 5: Are there any changes would you like to see in future Watershed Forums? (Use reverse side for additional comments)

Answers:

- 1 - For me presentation was bread for the journey. Excellent forum. I learned a lot and will continue my earth stewardship advocacy work.
- 2 - Enjoyable worthwhile day!
- 3 - larger screen.
- 4 - Worth the money!
- 5 - This was very good! Please ensure that presenters stay on schedule - we missed most of the second workshop.
- 6 - Thank you for organizing and presenting these important topics.
- 7 - Discussion of getting Virginia Beach to participate in FEMA's community rating system.
- 8 - Great job.
- 9 - See #4.



2014 VB Watersheds Forum Feedback

*Please leave this form on the registration table as you leave or mail it to
BBRF, 3022 New Bridge Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23456*

Rate overall **effectiveness** of these aspects of the Forum on a scale from 1-5 (*1 lowest and 5 highest*).

Length of the Forum	1	2	3	4	5
Number of presentations	1	2	3	4	5
Content and relevance of the presentations	1	2	3	4	5
Knowledge of the presenters	1	2	3	4	5
Format of the Forum	1	2	3	4	5
Number, type and quality of table displays	1	2	3	4	5
Catering services	1	2	3	4	5
Venue	1	2	3	4	5
Registration fee	1	2	3	4	5

1. If you ranked any of the above aspects of the Forum a 1 or a 2, please describe why and/or how we can improve.
2. Are there other topics you would like to see covered in future Forums?
3. Did this Forum affect or change your understanding of Virginia Beach's watersheds?
4. What new initiatives would you suggest that would have a direct and positive impact on the health of Virginia Beach's watersheds?
5. Please provide any additional suggestions for future Forums. (*Use reverse as needed*)

Please provide the following information (*optional*)

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

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